

Application No.: 09/625,967

Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated July 19, 2004

Response to the Office Action dated February 18, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An expansion device used for transmission of data between a computer and a data readout device, comprising:

a main body connected to said computer;

a mounting portion provided on said main body in which said readout device is mountable, and said readout device being able to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage unit storing at least the sound reproducing data;

audio circuits for processing the sound reproducing data;

a first power input portion being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a power supply for said computer; and

a second power input portion being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a second power supply other than said power supply for said computer; and

a DC/DC converter connected to the mounting portion and to the audio circuits,

wherein operations of said audio circuits and said readout device are enabled by supplying source power ~~thereto~~ to the DC/DC converter from said second power input portion when said

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second power input portion has a higher voltage level than said first power input portion and supplying source power ~~thereto~~ to the DC/DC converter from the first power input portion when said first power input portion has a higher voltage level than said second power input portion.

Claim 2 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein an operating portion for controlling an operation of said readout device is provided in said main body.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said mounting portion is adapted to selectively and detachably accommodate a plurality of kinds of expansion units other than said readout device.

Claim 4 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power supply is an external DC power supply.

Claim 5 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power supply is a battery built thereinto.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~host device~~ computer is a notebook personal computer.

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Claim 7 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of kinds of expansion units are a CD-ROM drive, a floppy disk drive, a DVD drive, a memory card drive, and a hard disk drive.

Claim 8 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 5, wherein a voltage of said battery is set in such a way as to be lower than a power supply voltage to be supplied to said first power input portion.

Claim 9 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 7, wherein said CD-ROM drive has both a decoding circuit for decoding digital data and a decoding circuit for decoding analog data and wherein switching between a digital data signal and an analog music signal is automatically performed according to a kind of said storage medium.

Claim 10 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 9, wherein said readout device indicates a playing track number and a piece number in a display device of said operating portion when said storage medium is an audio disk.

Claim 11 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 5, wherein said battery is a chargeable battery.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~host device~~ computer is connected to said expansion device by a cable.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~host device~~ computer is connected to said expansion device by connecting a connector provided in said ~~host device~~ computer directly to a connector provided on said expansion device.

Claim 14 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein a connector is installed in said mounting portion provided in said main body, wherein a corresponding connector is provided in said readout device, and wherein said readout device is connected to said main body only by inserting said readout device into said mounting portion.

Claim 15 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 12, wherein said cable is detachable from said expansion device in the case that no source power is supplied to said first power input portion.

Claim 16 (Original): The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power input portion is provided in said first power input portion.